THE CARBONDALE (PA.) NEWS, February 17, 1982, p. 1

Old M&M Bank building

Council approves sale of building

At Monday night's city council meeting, the sale of the old Miner's and Mechanic's Bank building located at 15-17 North Main Street was approved to the Adams CATV Inc., owned by David Adams, for $15,000. The old Riverdale Dress building will be included in the sale.

Adams plans to renovate the old structure for approximately $250,000 and base his company in the centrally located building. He also plans to rent out several offices and keep some of his fleet of service trucks at the site.

Originally purchased by the city through the Community Development program for $60,000 in 1978, the city has had trouble selling the building. Last year a high offer was made, but city council rejected the offer because they believed at that time the city could get more money for the building. The building and land are assessed at $18,375 currently, but will be reassessed after renovations are made.

Before the meeting started, Michael Tolerico, council president, asked for a moment of silence in memory of the late Carbondale Police Chief John Burke, who died last Friday.

When council took up its agenda, they overrode Mayor Fred J. Mancuso's veto of an emergency ordinance passed at the last council meeting which gives Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage to all council members.

Commenting on the squabble between the mayor and council over the formal inclusion of the benefits into the budget, Tolerico chided the mayor for placing the city in a "bad financial condition."

"In 1981, the anticipated income in the budget was $865,000. We actually took in $870,000, which was $5,000 more than was anticipated, but he (the mayor) overspent in the neighborhood of $200,000," Tolerico charged.

"Right now I think the city is in debt well over $150,000. We owe PP&L $39,000; we owe the federal government (IRS) over $40,000 in withholding taxes and an insurance company $22,000. It was the administration who put the city in this bad financial condition," he emphasized.

City solicitor John Cerra gave his legal opinion of whether or not council could legally include the benefits for itself and told council members, "It's been between 10 or 13 years that council has been receiving the benefits, maybe longer. As fas as I am concerned, every time there is a budget, an ordinance is passed. That's the ordinance providing for it (the Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage) and it's been there long enough."

In other business, council voted unamiously to sell a 1.2 acre piece of land to Charles J. Zazzera Construction Company for $7,500. The land, located behind Scotch Motors Company on Brooklyn Street, had previously been held in an option agreement with Allied Services. But Allied, several weeks ago, gave up their option on the land in a letter to the city.

A letter from PennDOT was read to the council informing them that needed speed and warning lights will be erected at the top of Canaan Street hill and that a truck runoff may be constructed as soon as the ownership of a piece of property was determined.

Mrs. Clare Rocheny had her letter to council read criticizing the icy and snowy condition of the streets and sidewalks this winter.

Council also approved the ordinance setting the tax millage rate at 31 mills for 1982.

Addressing council about the Archbald Street water problem, resident Mrs. Betty Opalka, who lives on the street, showed council a picture supplied by the NEWS showing a large area where the pavement has sunk to a depth of one foot below the street level.

According to Mrs. Opalka, city managing director Pete Judge told her street crews would be sent Tuesday morning to fill in the hole and try to temporarily correct the problem. The Carbondale Housing Authority has a contract to pave the part of the road that has fallen, but a water problem which has existed for years made councilman Abe Calzola remark that if the problem isn't taken care of, the new paving would last only a short time.

Council then told Judge to see if the $15,000 the city will collect for sale of the M&M Bank Building could be used to help solve the water problem which has turned the city street into a mass of deep potholes and sunken pavement.